

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07114 201736Z  
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 W  
-----202153Z 106260 /64  
P 201710Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7686

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7114

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OGEN  
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. WITH OER'S DUE SOON, BOTH THE CONSULAR SECTION AND THE COMMERCIAL OFFICE WANT TO COMMEND MIKE DIXON ON HIS SUPERB PERFORMANCE IN HANDLING THE BUSVIS PROGRAM. BUSINESS VISA PROCESSING IS ENORMOUSLY DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THE SKETCHY AND GENERALLY TARDY INFORMATION REACHING US THROUGH LABYRINTHINE SOVIET CHANNELS, BUT MIKE HAS CONSISTENTLY WORKED WONDERS IN LOCATING U.S. SPONSORS AND PUSHING USG PROCESSING TO CONCLUSION BEFORE THE ETD. MOREOVER, HE HAS OFTEN HAD TO STEP IN AND VIRTUALLY COORDINATE A SOVIET DELEGATION'S ITINERARY AMONG ITS U.S. SPONSORS - A TASK CLEARLY BEYOND THE SCOPE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. HIS ASSISTANCE WAS PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED IN THOSE CASES WHERE COMMERCIAL OFFICE INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRIP ORGANIZATION PUT OUR PRESTIGE ON THE LINE. MR. DIXON'S WORK IN BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION AFFAIRS ALSO DESERVES STRONG COMMENDATION. HE HAS CLEARLY MASTERED A COMPLEX SUBJECT AND HIS INFORMED JUDGMENTS AND REPORTS HAVE BEEN VERY VALUABLE TO THE EMBASSY.

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2. RE BILL JACKSON OF SENATOR CRANSTON'S STAFF (PARA 2 STATE 115680), PRESEL, WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM, SAYS THE SOVIETS CLEARLY GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WERE BEING INFORMALLY INVITED SINCE THAT IS THE WAY JACKSON PUT IT. JACKSON INDEED EXPLAINED THE CAVEATS AND DID SAY THAT CRANSTON WOULD TRY AND GET THE INVITATION EXTENDED FROM BOTH HOUSES. THE SOVIETS IN FACT ASKED SPECIFICALLY

WHETHER JACKSON WAS SPEAKING FOR BOTH HOUSES, TO WHICH JACKSON RESPONDED THAT HE COULD SPEAK ONLY FOR THE SENATE, BUT THAT HE WAS SPEAKING FOR THE ENTIRE SENATE LEADERSHIP, NOT JUST SENATOR CRANSTON. HE DID SAY THAT IN ADDITION TO THE INFORMAL INVITATION HE WAS CONVEYING, THERE WOULD ALSO BE A FORMAL LETTER DELIVERED FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE. NO TIME WAS MENTIONED EXCEPT THAT THE SOVIETS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY DID NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF THE SUMMER, (WHICH JACKSON HAD SUGGESTED AS THE BEST TIME) AND WERE THINKING IN TERMS OF THE FALL. SINCE JACKSON'S VISIT WE HAVE HAD NO SIGN OF INTEREST HERE FROM EITHER MFA OR THE SUPREME SOVIET ABOUT THE FORMAL INVITATION.

3. RE RETALIATION FOR REFUSALS OF TRAVEL FOR PRESEL, PLEASE TOUCH BASE WITH AMBASSADOR NEXT WEEK. OUR RECOMMENDATION, SUBJECT OF COURSE TO HIS APPROVAL, WOULD BE TO SELECT A GIVEN OFFICER OF SOVEMBASSY (EITHER SENIOR OFFICER IN INTERNAL SECTION OR KGB) AND RETALIATE CONSISTENTLY AGAINST HIM. SPREADING RETALIATIONS AROUND ON SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS IS LIKELY TO DISSIPATE IMPACT. ALSO, IF CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRESEL CONTINUES, WE MIGHT WISH CONSIDER HAVING A FEW PRESS STORIES DISCREETLY PLANTED ABOUT ONE OF THEIR OFFICERS. I'M NOT SURE WHERE I WOULD COME DOWN ON THIS ONE, BUT YOU MIGHT ASK AMBASSADOR HOW HE WOULD FEEL ABOUT IT IF SITUATION HERE GETS WORSE. WILL DO OUR BEST TO GET SOMETHING TO YOU ON BUSINESS FACILITATION BY MONDAY MORNING. SKOUG AND FARRAND HAVE DONE VERY THOROUGH SURVEY AMONG LOCAL BUSINESSMEN; CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBLEM IS FINDING TIME OVER WEEKEND TO WRITE IT UP. WE SHALL TRY AT LEAST TO SEND SUMMARY REPORT, THEN FOLLOW UP WITH MORE DETAILS, IF THIS WOULD SUFFICE. MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009